



ECONOMY

The minimum wage rises by 7%, growing to 1,376.27 euros

Marsol meets with the unions and employers, although the lack of agreement remains evident

The intention is to agree on the increase in the rest of the salaries with the parliamentary groups

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The minimum wage will grow by 7% next year, standing at 1,376.27 euros. This was stated by the Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol, in statements following the meeting of the Economic and Social Council (CES) that took place last Friday: «It is a significant increase because, fortunately, inflation is being contained», emphasized the minister, highlighting that this increase «is another step for the minimum wage to approach 60% of the average». The increase in the CPI will be set at around 4.6 or 4.7%, thus giving as achieved - and exceeded - the intention of the Executive to remain two points above inflation, taking distances also with the increase of 4% given in Spain.

However, Marsol wanted to highlight the willingness of the Government to agree with the rest of the parliamentary groups on the increase of the rest of the salaries that are above the established minimum: «The intention is to talk about salary revaluations, beyond the minimum wage, especially for the lowest wages», said the holder of the Economy and Work portfolio, showing optimism towards «the good disposition of all the groups» and towards being able to reach an agreement with all the forces involved or the maximum of them. Asked about the system that will be established to set these salary increases, Marsol mentioned that it will be «more simplified than last year's grids. We will wait to talk about it with the other parliamentary groups because maybe they will propose something that we see is very good for us».

The other members of the CES, disagree/The meeting between the



► The meeting of the Economic and Social Council, with the Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Work and Housing, Conxita Marsol.

Executive and the other members of the CES showed, once again, the lack of unanimity between the different parties to reach an agreement regarding the increase of the rest of wages. As stated by the general secretary of the Union of Andorra (USdA), Gabriel Ubach, the 7% increase «is completely insufficient in a country where real estate speculation is so high and rents are at 1,500 euros».

Within this casuistry, the issue of the thirteenth pay was one of the most mentioned throughout the appointment which was also attended by the manager of the Business Confederation (CEA), Iago

Andreu. While Ubach maintained a firm position regarding the aforementioned issue, stating that «the employers are trying to make it a taboo subject, which does not quite understand that it is necessary to move forward on this issue», Andreu to point out that his intention was not to approve an agreement that would be extended for four years: «What we think is that the Government should limit itself to setting the minimum wage and the rest should be done via pacts between the parties or with collective agreements».

In addition, the general secretary of the USdA emphasized that

the thirteenth pay, apart from reversing the economic fabric of the country, «will favor small and medium-sized companies because the workers would spend more», stressing that «as we want to do an agreement with Europe with an employer who does not see this». For his part, Andreu wanted to remember that the employer had already put on the table that the minimum wage should rise by 5% plus 1.5%, that from the minimum to the median the increase should correspond to CPI, and that between the median and the mean the increase was that of the CPI minus 1.5%: «This was already one of the most

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CONXITA MARSOL
MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY,
ECONOMY, WORK AND HOUSING

«It's a significant increase and it's another step for the minimum wage to approach 60% of the average»

GABRIEL UBACH
SECRETARY GENERAL OF USdA

«The increase is completely insufficient in a country where property speculation is so high»

IAGO ANDREU
CEA GENERAL MANAGER

«We think that the Government should limit itself to setting the minimum wage and the rest should be done via agreements between the parties»

advanced proposals we could find in our European environment, because unions and employers only negotiate the minimum wage», he remarked.

The discrepancies given, however, did not diminish Conxita Marsol's optimism in the face of being able to reach, in the coming weeks, an agreement between all the parties: «They have all made efforts and brought their positions closer together. We were very close to reaching an agreement and we will start working in January to do so», she said. ≡

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ENERGY

The wind farm will reduce the purchase of energy by 25 to 35%

The infrastructure will boost energy sovereignty and energy production in the country



►► The Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné, and the Director of Energy and Transport, Carles Miquel.



DAVID FORNÉ
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION, TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

«The future infrastructure of the wind farm will be a before and after in the production of energy in the country»

has validated this week putting on public display the Sectoral Plan for Wind Infrastructures of Andorra, after having received the mandatory and binding reports from the municipalities of Canillo and Encamp on the future infrastructure. This is a necessary and essential step that must be taken as set out in the Law on Environmental Assessment of Projects and Plans and Programs, which establishes the strategic environmental assessment procedure for energy sector plans. Once this deadline has passed, the Government will be able to definitively approve the Sectoral Plan and award the construction project for the wind farm.

Going into the details of what the plan establishes, a single area is reserved in the whole country for the installation of the park which will be located in the area of the summit of Maià, which according to previous reports is the area with the most potential for production of energy. A total of 10 wind turbines would be installed that would generate an annual production of 511 GWh/year, which is equivalent to the annual consumption of 15,000 homes.

The production of energy, of renewable origin, will avoid the emission of between 4,900 and 6,400 tons of carbon dioxide per year and will contribute to achieving Andorra's climate goals for the year 2023. In addition, the system of wind turbines will allow to optimize the occupation of the land, since it will have a land occupation ratio of 140 square meters / installed MW. This occupancy ratio is much lower than what a photovoltaic installation would have (5,000 square meters / MW installed). ≡

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The future infrastructure of the Maià wind farm will be «a before and after in the production of energy in the country, and will allow us to cover more than 30% of the current demand for energy in Andorra, contributing to the objective of Law of impulse and energy transition and climate change (Litectc)», explained the Secretary of State for Energy Transition, Transport and Mobility, David Forné.

This will be the first wind farm in the country and will be located at the Maià peak. The wind farm will reduce exposure to market prices in neighboring countries, which have recently increased sevenfold, from 25 to 35%, and increase domestic energy production. Currently, the country produces close to 20% of energy and the future infrastructure will make it possible to make a qualitative leap, reaching slightly more than 30% of national production.

Forné compared the wind farm with the hydroelectric system installed

The future infrastructure will make it possible to make a qualitative leap, reaching a little more than 30% of national production

in Engolasters Lake, which currently generates a large part of the national energy. The future park will make it possible to increase «energy sovereignty» and, therefore, «reduce dependence and exposure», when buying energy in international markets that are increasingly «more volatile». The Secretary of State added that «the reduction of energy dependence is linked to the promotion of new infrastructures in the country that produce energy from renewable sources».

In order to advance the construction of the park in Maià, the Executive

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Aid for projects that promote the circular economy

An action to encourage the creation of green companies and jobs

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Government has awarded, at the proposal of the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Guillem Casal, new grants for the promotion of projects based on the principles of the circular economy. The initiative is promoted within the framework of the second call for these grants, intended mainly for private companies and business groups or associations, professional associations or associations in general, with the aim of promoting the circular economy and the principles that pursues the law, as



►► Image of the circular economy.

well as contributing to the ecological transition to improve the efficiency of material resources. The grants are aimed at encouraging the creation of companies, activities and projects that contribute substantially to the circular economy, as well as the creation of green jobs.

Going into detail, subsidies have been awarded to a total of five projects with an economic purse of 25,983.80 euros. Thus, the project promoted by Autèntic Cal Fontana on the use of beeswax to make candles or waxed fabric, in Soldeu-Incles Snow Sports for the reuse of advertising banners and in Independent Pastries S. XXI for the acquisition of recycled and reusable materials. On the other hand, two grants have been awarded to the Andorran Ski Federation and Cloudify Consulting for the promotion of two communication campaigns to promote the transition towards the circular economy and in the area of food waste. ≡

INTERNATIONAL

The call for grants for Poctefa 2023 is open

The overall allocation of the call is 100,000 euros

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Research and innovation are essential elements to strengthen a country's scientific and technological base, while promoting and improving its social and economic development and making it more resilient. In addition, cross-border cooperation in these areas contributes to responding to current and future local and regional challenges. For this reason, the Ministry of Institutional Relations, Education and Universities has opened the call to request Andorran aid for 2023 for projects started within the framework of the INTERREG VI-A Spain-France-Andorra (Poctefa) 2021-2027 Program.

The aim of the grants is to finance the activity of Andorran entities that are working on a cross-border project linked to research and that is part of the Poctefa. The overall allocation of the call is 100,000 euros and this amount will be distributed among the competing projects. The application period begins on December 28th, 2023 and ends on March 22nd, 2024 (both inclusive).

The Poctefa is a European territorial cooperation program created to promote the development of the border territory between the three countries which, at the same time, helps to reduce the differences in the execution of the territory, to join forces while promoting the intelligent and integrated sustainable development of the regions that make it up. ≡